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Letter dated 15 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour, in my capacity of coordinator of the Troika for this month, to send you the statement circulated by the Troika of Observer States to the Lusaka Protocol at the meeting of the Security Council held on 7 August 2002 (see annex).

We would be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Rui **Macieira**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2002 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Troika of Observer States to the Lusaka Protocol, Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States, issued on 7 August 2002

Over the years during which the Troika has supported the peace process, hopes for a lasting settlement to the Angolan conflict have been often dashed. We are pleased, however, to observe that lasting peace and a political settlement finally seem at hand in Angola due to the wisdom both the Government and UNITA are showing. The long-suffering Angolan people deserve no less and they can count on the Troika and the United Nations to support their efforts in Angola.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on 4 April, approximately 82,320 National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) military personnel have assembled in quartering areas, accompanied at nearby sites by over 249,553 family members, exceeding the parties' own estimates. In the Memorandum of Understanding, parties had planned to provide quartering for up to 50,000 UNITA military personnel and 300,000 family members.

The large and rapid influx of UNITA personnel taxed Government resources, but was also a concrete display of the willingness of both sides to put the past behind them. The Government has made progress in responding to the needs of these persons and their families. It is critical that the Angolan Government and the international community remain committed to the provision of material and support to these areas. We should also acknowledge that the demobilized fighters, in the face of difficult conditions, have shown a patience that clearly demonstrates their commitment to peace.

The Troika wishes to stress that those internally displaced and those who have taken refuge in neighbouring countries must not be forgotten. For true national reconciliation to take hold, the needs of all Angolan society must be addressed. While this task must first and foremost be addressed by the Angolan Government, the international community intends to provide assistance.

The Troika notes the appeal by the Government of Angola to the United Nations to organize and carry out an international donors conference to confront immediate material needs flowing from the current phase of the peace process, as well as a later phase of national reconciliation. The United Nations has asked the international community to provide more than $140 million to augment its current Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola to support its humanitarian operations.

The Troika welcomes the Secretary-General's report of 26 July 2002 (S/2002/834) and supports the Secretary-General's decision to continue the United Nations presence in Angola, particularly to assist in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

The Troika urges the parties to build on the momentum of the demobilization effort and reconstitute the Joint Commission as soon as possible. To this end, the Troika urges UNITA to reconstitute itself quickly as a peaceful political party in a spirit of cooperation, reconciliation and non-interference by outside sources. In that regard, the continuing suspension of United Nations travel sanctions against UNITA-associated persons overseas has assisted in the political transformation of UNITA, and we wish to recognize the Government's good will in facilitating the travel of UNITA.